

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system, comprising:
 - a blood pressure monitor having an electronic dump valve;
 - a blood pressure cuff ~~pneumatically connected to said blood pressure monitor;~~
 - a deflation valve detachably and pneumatically connected with and intermediate said blood pressure monitor and said blood pressure cuff, said deflation valve being manually operable and configured to rapidly deflate said blood pressure cuff independent of said electronic dump valve; and
 - a controller for automatically controlling ~~the non-invasive~~ said blood pressure monitor;
 - wherein in response to a single-handed operation of said deflation valve by an operator, said blood pressure cuff is allowed to rapidly deflate absent a need for an operator to separate said blood pressure cuff from said blood pressure monitor.
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:
 - a monitor hose pneumatically connecting said blood pressure monitor to said deflation valve; and
 - a cuff hose pneumatically connecting said deflation valve to said blood pressure cuff.

4. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 3, wherein:

said monitor hose and said cuff hose are detachably connected to said deflation valve.

5. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 4, wherein said deflation valve further comprises:

a valve body;
a monitor port at a first end of said valve body for receiving said monitor hose;
a cuff port at a second end of said valve body for receiving said cuff hose; and
an air channel intermediate said monitor port and said cuff port, wherein said air channel comprises a sealable exhaust port for exhausting air from said air channel to ambient.

6. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 5, wherein said deflation valve further comprises:

an actuator assembly in operable communication with said sealable exhaust port;
an exhaust port seal disposed proximate said sealable exhaust port, said exhaust port seal being responsive to said actuator assembly;
a bias spring disposed within said valve body for biasing said actuator assembly in a first direction; and
said sealable exhaust port being sealed when said actuator assembly is biased in said first direction and unsealed when said actuator assembly is biased in a second direction.

7. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 6, wherein said actuator assembly further comprises:

an actuator;

a seal carrier for supporting said exhaust port seal; and
a link disposed intermediate said actuator and said seal carrier for communicating a force between said actuator and said seal carrier.

8. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 6, wherein said actuator assembly comprises a push-button actuator disposed within said valve body for one-hand operation of said deflation valve by an operator.

9. (original) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 7, wherein said bias spring is disposed proximate said seal carrier for biasing said exhaust port seal in said first direction.

10. (currently amended) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein:~~

~~an automatic blood pressure monitor comprising said blood pressure monitor and~~
said controller is disposed within said blood pressure monitor.

11-24. (canceled)

25. (new) An automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system, comprising:

a blood pressure monitor having a controller for automatic control thereof, a user interface, a display, and an electronic dump valve;

a blood pressure cuff; and

a deflation valve detachably and pneumatically connected with and intermediate said blood pressure monitor and said blood pressure cuff, said deflation valve being manually operable and configured to rapidly deflate said blood pressure cuff independent of said electronic dump valve, said deflation valve comprising a valve body, a monitor port at a first end of said valve body for detachably and pneumatically connecting with

said blood pressure monitor, a cuff port at a second end of said valve body for detachably and pneumatically connecting with said blood pressure cuff, and an air channel intermediate said monitor port and said cuff port, said air channel comprising a sealable exhaust port for exhausting air from said air channel to ambient;

wherein in response to a single-handed operation of said deflation valve by an operator, said blood pressure cuff is allowed to rapidly deflate absent a need for an operator to separate said blood pressure cuff from said blood pressure monitor.

26. (new) The automatic non-invasive blood pressure monitoring system of Claim 25, wherein:

said monitor and cuff ports allow different sizes of said blood pressure cuff to be connected to said blood pressure monitor via said deflation valve.